



## What do refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics do?

Refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics install, assemble, repair, and maintain refrigeration and air conditioning systems for residential, commercial, and industrial clients.

"One of the best decisions I've made was to train to become a certified refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic. I earn an above average salary, and the satisfaction I get when a customer says, 'We will be able to sleep tonight,' because I fixed their air conditioning unit is priceless. That sort of satisfaction encourages me to do my best."

Bill Cronin, certified refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic



## The outlook for work as a refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic

Job opportunities are expected to be good for refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics as employers report difficulties finding qualified skilled workers to fill vacant positions. Only registered apprentices and certified skilled workers can perform this work.

### QUICK FACTS ON APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING FOR A REFRIGERATION AND AIR CONDITIONING MECHANIC

Length of time to train	About four and a half years
Courses and skills that can help you prepare for a career as a refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic	Math, physics, a mechanical aptitude, and a willingness to learn; high school graduation preferred
Salary range for apprentices and skilled refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics (overtime and bonuses not included)	\$22,300 to \$55,000

As the economy grows, opportunities for work will also increase because of the demand for new, more efficient air conditioning and refrigeration systems. In general, refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics install and maintain air and refrigeration systems, a service for which the demand is steady. As in most skilled trades, workers must keep pace with new technology.

## Apprenticeship training

Apprenticeship is hands-on training for people who enjoy learning by doing. The training provides access to well-paying jobs that demand a high level of skills, judgement, and creativity. Apprentices are paid while gaining work experience, and their wages increase with their level of skills.

About 90 per cent of apprenticeship training occurs in the workplace and is provided by employers or sponsors who train apprentices to standards of skill and safety that are set by industry. The remainder of the training involves classroom instruction on theory, which is usually given at a local community college or provided by another approved training organization.

To become an apprentice refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic, an applicant must find an employer who is willing to train. Such jobs are rarely advertised, and, instead, employers often rely on word of mouth to attract applicants. People who want to become apprentices usually apply directly to an employer, union, or local apprenticeship committee.

Skilled workers who have received their training in Ontario can work anywhere in the province. Agreements among the provinces and territories allow certified skilled workers in certain trades to work anywhere in Canada. Training consultants at ministry apprenticeship offices can provide more information.

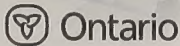
## For more information

If you have a question about becoming an apprentice refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic, call the Ontario government's Training Hotline at **1-888-JOB-GROW**. In Toronto, call **(416) 326-5656**.

If you are in high school, talk to your guidance counsellor. If you are in college or university, contact your campus placement office for help.

To find out about careers as a refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic, check out Career Gateway at [www.youthjobs.gov.on.ca](http://www.youthjobs.gov.on.ca)

Information in this flyer came from *Ontario Job Futures* and the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.



### WHAT APPRENTICES AND SKILLED WORKERS SAY ABOUT APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Apprenticeship training is relevant to the job I do now.

81 per cent

If faced with the same decision, I would choose to take apprenticeship training again.

85 per cent

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